



# North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Lewiston Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April increased to 4.4 percent from March's rate of 3.9 percent, as shown in North Central Idaho Table 1. In April 2005, the rate was 5.1 percent.

The region's nonfarm payroll jobs in April increased by 190 from March, the result of job increases in trade sectors. According to some store owners, the new hires in trade were in hopes that the Lewis and Clark celebration would pick up steam and generate more business. People from all over the world are expected this summer to visit sites along the Corps of Discovery trails. Some of the most scenic trails traveled by Lewis and Clark are in north central Idaho.

### SPECIAL TOPIC: Covered Employers

Covered employers include all employers covered by Idaho's unemployment insurance law. This law covers approximately 92 percent of employers in Idaho. Since 2001, the number of employers has increased in north central Idaho as shown in North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 12. In 2005, new employers throughout north central Idaho were small with fewer than five employees. By county, over the last five years, Latah attracted the most new employers in the region. New employers in the county were concentrated in the construction and the accommodation and food service sectors. In the rest of north central Idaho: Idaho County's new employers could be found in the manufacturing, wholesale trade and real estate; Lewis attracted new employers in construction; in Clearwater, new employers were concentrated in trade and the hospitality/leisure sector and in Nez Perce employers emerged in construction, finance, insurance and technical assistance.

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	Apr 2006*	Mar 2006	Apr 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,800	28,580	29,440	0.8	-2.2
Unemployment	1,280	1,120	1,510	14.3	-15.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.9	5.1		
Total Employment	27,520	27,460	27,930	0.2	-1.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,830	28,850	29,580	-0.1	-2.5
Unemployment	1,300	1,390	1,550	-6.5	-16.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.8	5.2		
Total Employment	27,530	27,460	28,030	0.3	-1.8
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	26,850	26,660	26,900	0.7	-0.2
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,320	4,230	4,440	2.1	-2.7
Natural Resources & Mining	200	200	180	0.0	11.1
Construction	1,170	1,110	1,350	5.4	-13.3
Manufacturing	2,950	2,920	2,910	1.0	1.4
Wood Product Manufacturing	520	540	540	-3.7	-3.7
Food Manufacturing	20	20	50	0.0	-60.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,090	1,070	1,130	1.9	-3.5
Other Manufacturing	1,320	1,290	1,190	2.3	10.9
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,530	22,430	22,460	0.4	0.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,440	5,390	5,280	0.9	3.0
Wholesale Trade	680	660	680	3.0	0.0
Retail Trade	3,450	3,430	3,430	0.6	0.6
Utilities	80	80	90	0.0	-11.1
Transportation & Warehousing	1,230	1,220	1,080	0.8	13.9
Information	440	420	390	4.8	12.8
Financial Activities	1,840	1,830	1,890	0.5	-2.6
Professional & Business Services	1,610	1,570	1,650	2.5	-2.4
Education & Health Services	4,510	4,510	4,450	0.0	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2,300	2,290	2,430	0.4	-5.3
Other Services	1,110	1,110	1,140	0.0	-2.6
Government Education	2,500	2,480	2,530	0.8	-1.2
Government Administration	2,080	2,130	1,970	-2.3	5.6
Government Tribes	700	700	730	0.0	-4.1

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

### SPECIAL TOPIC: Tourism

The importance of north central Idaho in commemorating the Lewis and Clark expedition was the reason that Lewiston was selected for the Annual Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism. Idaho communities bid for the opportunity to host the event. Last year, Idaho Falls was the conference setting. More than 200 tourism professionals attended the conference and 70 percent of them were from outside the region. Accord-

North Central Idaho Table 2: Changes in the Number of North Central Idaho Employers 2001-2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CLEARWATER	345	339	343	338	343
IDAHO	569	567	576	578	588
LATAH	976	951	982	1,007	1,028
LEWIS	175	175	174	174	183
NEZ PERCE	1,310	1,298	1,286	1,292	1,318
North Central Idaho	3,374	3,329	3,361	3,389	3,460

\*Numbers reflect covered employers

ing to Carl Wilgus, assistant deputy director at Idaho Commerce & Labor in Boise, the event is important because tourism employs 47,000 and contributes \$200 million in state and local taxes. "The jobs pay less than manufacturing but might be considered more secure," Wilgus said. "It is one of the least likely to be automated. It's a high-touch industry. You just don't replace those jobs." With the commemoration of Lewis and Clark, north central Idaho's share of those numbers is growing. Wilgus believes tourists will keep coming to north central Idaho after the commemoration is finished. The numbers will not likely jump as they have, but he does not anticipate them to drop.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Latah County

- Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport has waited more than 18 months for the Federal Aviation Administration to waive its restriction on large aircraft flying into the airport. The waiver would allow Horizon Air, which has 12 Q400 planes on order, to be able to use them in Pullman-Moscow on busy football weekends. The airline flies the 39-passenger Dash 8 aircraft into Pullman-Moscow for its regular scheduled flights. Demand for seats on Horizon flights has been steadily increasing, according to Horizon officials. In the short run, those 12 Q400s will be spread across Horizon's fleet. But the airline's long-term plans for

Pullman-Moscow include the Q400 if FAA will allow the planes in. The FAA's main concern was the distance between the runway and taxiway. Because of the topography of the surrounding land and the location of the airport terminal, nothing could be done about the taxiway when improvements were made to the runway last year. Instead, airport officials waged an information campaign designed to keep smaller, private aircraft off the taxiway when larger planes are coming and going on the runway. The FAA has reviewed the airport's plan to add a recording to the automatic weather broadcasts alerting pilots about safe use of the taxiway.

### Nez Perce County

- Storms in late May came at just the right time for area farmers. Winter and spring crops in early May were showing signs of stress from the record high temperatures. Temperatures reached triple digits in the first week of May but it cooled with showers in the third week which was a welcome relief and helped crops to thrive.

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## IDAHO FARM UPDATES RESUME PUBLICATION

Idaho Commerce & Labor has resumed publishing its bi-weekly Farm Labor Update. This publication contains information on crop activity, labor supply and demand and current wage rates for the principal agricultural areas of the state. English and Spanish versions are available. To subscribe, send an e-mail to [jennie.nunn@cl.idaho.gov](mailto:jennie.nunn@cl.idaho.gov) or call (208) 332-3570 ext. 3210 or (800) 772-2553 ext. 3210. Access it on the Internet at: <http://lmi.idaho.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=183> This will take you to the Farm Labor - Labor Market Information page. Direct links to the Farm Labor Update and the Crop Activity list can be accessed at:

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